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September 10, 2018

Mr. Brett Frazier, Chairperson, and
Members of the Governing Board

Dear Board Members:

Retirement Effective September 11, 2018

With excitement at beginning a new chapter, and considerable sentiment regarding the 17 years I have served the San Joaquin River Conservancy, I am submitting this letter of retirement.

I have been extremely fortunate to have had a wide range of rewarding experiences, and to associate with some of the best leaders, conservationists, and public servants in this community and in this state as colleagues and friends.

Under the direction of a supportive and dedicated Board, in collaboration with experienced, professional interagency and organizational partners, and with very gifted and conscientious staff, we have accomplished a great deal. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have had a part, along with the Board, in making Jensen River Ranch a valued open space park; acquiring and improving Sycamore Island for public recreation and securing the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust as an operator; restoring habitat on hundreds of acres, including one of the first completed projects of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program; rehabilitating the Lost Lake Park campground; developing creative visitor spaces at the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery; and acquiring nearly 2,000 acres for the Parkway (among others).

I look forward to new visitor facilities at the River Center, extension of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail, development of River Vista, and open hiking trails at Ball Ranch and Ledger Island, through the Conservancy's continuing involvement.

Thank you to all past and present Board members, legal counsel from the Attorney General's Office, Conservancy staff, support staff at the California Wildlife Conservation Board and California Department of Parks and Recreation, and to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

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Thanks to project co-sponsors, including the California departments of Water Resources and Fish and Wildlife, State Parks—Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, California State Lands Commission, City of Fresno, County of Fresno, County of Madera, the Parkway Trust, and Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission.

Thanks as well to leaders and volunteers of the Parkway Trust, RiverTree Volunteers, Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center, River Partners, Ducks Unlimited, the Fresno City Life and Environmental Sciences Program, and Madera County Fire Explorer Post 19, among many others.

I truly appreciate the opportunities I've had to serve the public and help conserve important resources, and greatly respect the public good provided by the State of California, the Conservancy, its member agencies and partners.

Sincerely,



Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer